



6250.0.25.002 - Microdata: Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia, November 2016

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Summary

Introduction

INTRODUCTION

This product provides a range of information about the release of microdata from the 2016 Characteristics of Recent Migrants survey (CoRMS), including details about the survey methodology and how to use the microdata product; TableBuilder. A data item list and information on the conditions of use and the quality of the microdata, as well as the definitions used, are also provided. A TableBuilder is an online tool for creating tables and graphs.

Microdata are the most detailed information available from a survey and are generally the responses to individual questions on the questionnaire or data derived from two or more questions.

The CoRMS was conducted in November 2016 throughout Australia as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). CoRMS provides data about the labour force status and other characteristics of recent migrants and temporary residents along with general demographic and employment characteristics of recent migrants and temporary residents. Information available from the survey includes the type of visa held by recent migrants and temporary residents on arrival in Australia, education and employment before and after arriving in Australia, any difficulties experienced finding work since migration and proficiency in English.

Where a recent migrant is defined as a person who;

- was born overseas,
- who first arrived to live in Australia (for one year or more) after 2006,
- was aged 15 years or over on arrival,
- was not an Australian citizen or New Zealand citizen on arrival,
- does not currently hold New Zealand citizenship, and
- has permanent Australian resident status.

A temporary resident is defined as a person who:

- was born overseas,
- who first arrived to live in Australia (for one year or more) after 2006,
- was aged 15 years or over on arrival,
- was not an Australian citizen or New Zealand citizen on arrival,
- does not currently hold New Zealand citizenship, and

- has a temporary visa.

Further information about this product, and other information to assist users in understanding and accessing microdata in general, is available from the Microdata Entry Page. Before applying for access, users should read and familiarise themselves with the information contained in the User Manual: TableBuilder.

APPLYING FOR ACCESS

To apply for access to TableBuilder, register and apply in the Registration Centre.

Further information on access steps can be found in [How to Apply for Microdata](#).

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about the survey and the microdata can be found in the various pages associated with this product, including:

- A detailed list of data items for the 2016 CORMS TableBuilder, available in the Downloads tab.
- The Quality Declaration and Abbreviations in the Explanatory Notes tab.
- Other related products on the Related Information tab.

SUPPORT

For further support in the use of this product, please contact Microdata Access Strategies on 02 6252 7714 or via microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Data collected in the survey but not included in TableBuilder may be available from the ABS, on request, as statistics in tabulated form.

Subject to confidentiality and sampling variability constraints, special tabulations can be produced incorporating data items, populations and geographic areas selected to meet individual requirements. These are available, on request, on a fee for service basis. Contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or client.services@abs.gov.au for further information.

PRIVACY

The ABS Privacy Policy outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

Survey Methodology

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

General information about the 2016 Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey, including summary results, are available in the publication *Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia, Nov 2016* (cat. no. 6250.0).

Detailed information about the survey including scope and coverage, survey design, data collection methodology, weighting, estimation and benchmarking, estimate reliability as well as a glossary and list of abbreviations can be accessed from the Explanatory Notes page of that publication. All published summary tables, in Excel spreadsheet format, can be accessed from the Downloads page.

File Structure and Content

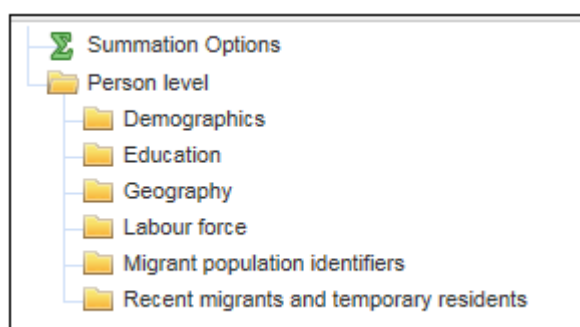
FILE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

FILE STRUCTURE

The 2016 Characteristics of Recent Migrants TableBuilder file is structured as a single person level file. This person level contains general demographic information about each survey respondent such as their age, sex, country of birth and labour force status as well as details of their migration, visa, education, employment and income for recent migrants and temporary residents.

When tabulating data, person weights are automatically applied to the underlying sample counts to provide the survey estimates.

The data items included in the 2016 Characteristics of Recent Migrants TableBuilder are grouped under the following broad headings and subheadings. A complete data item list can be accessed from the Downloads page.



FILE CONTENT

Multi-response Fields

A number of questions included in the Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey (CoRMS) allowed respondents to provide one or more responses. These data items can be identified in the data item list from the Downloads tab by the following label **<multiple response>**. The sum of individual multi-response categories will be greater than the population or number of people applicable to the particular data item as respondents are able to select more than one response.

For CORMS the following data items are multiple response:

- All difficulties when finding first job held in Australia
- All difficulties finding current job
- All sources of help when looking for first job held in Australia
- All sources of household income.

Not Applicable Categories

Most data items included in the TableBuilder file include a 'Not applicable' category. The classification values of the 'Not applicable' categories, where relevant, are shown in the data item list in the Downloads tab. The 'Not applicable' category generally represents the number of people who were not asked a particular question or the number of people excluded from the population for a data item when that data was derived (e.g. Year of Arrival in Australia is not applicable for people born in Australia).

Table Populations

The population relevant to each data item is identified in the data item list and should be kept in mind when extracting and analysing data. The data item "Migrant population flag" can be used as a filter to limit tables to the Recent migrant or temporary resident population. The "Migration summary" data item can be used in a similar way to further limit tables to more specific populations.

Using TableBuilder

USING TABLEBUILDER

For general information relating to TableBuilder and instructions on how to use the features of the TableBuilder product, please refer to the User Manual: TableBuilder (cat. no. 1406.0.55.005).

More specific information applicable to this 2016 Characteristics of Recent Migrants (CoRMS) TableBuilder product, which should enable users to understand, interpret and tabulate the data, is outlined below.

COUNTING UNITS AND WEIGHTS

Weighting is the process of adjusting results from a sample survey to infer results for the total population. To do this, a 'weight' is allocated to each sample unit. The weight is the value that indicates how many population units are represented by the sample unit.

As the format of the CoRMS TableBuilder file is at the person level, there is only one weight provided - a person weight. That is, all tables produced provide estimates of the number of people with particular characteristics. The **Summation Options** section in the left hand panel in **Table View** contains this weight. As there is only one weight available the person weights will be automatically applied when producing tables.

CONTINUOUS DATA ITEMS

TableBuilder includes a number of continuous variables which can have a response value at any point along a continuum. Some continuous data items are allocated special codes for certain responses (e.g. 000 = 'Not applicable'). When creating ranges in TableBuilder for such continuous items, special codes will automatically be excluded. Therefore, the total will show only 'valid responses' rather than all responses (including special codes). Continuous items with special codes have a corresponding categorical item on the Person level that provides the ability to display data for the special code. Any special codes for continuous data items are listed in the Data Item List.

ADJUSTMENT OF CELL VALUES

To minimise the risk of identifying individuals in aggregate statistics, a technique is used to randomly adjust cell values. This technique is called perturbation. Perturbation involves small random adjustment of the statistics and is considered the most satisfactory technique for avoiding the release of identifiable statistics while maximising the range of information that can be released. These adjustments have a negligible impact on the underlying pattern of the statistics. After perturbation, a given published cell value will be consistent across all tables. However, adding up cell values to derive a total will not necessarily give the same result as published totals. The introduction of perturbation in publications ensures that these statistics are consistent with statistics released via services such as TableBuilder. For CoRMS, 2016 is the first iteration where perturbation has been introduced.

Conditions of Use

CONDITIONS OF USE

USER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Census and Statistics Act 1905 includes a legislative guarantee to respondents that their confidentiality will be protected. This is fundamental to the trust the Australian public has in the ABS, and that trust is in turn fundamental to the excellent quality of ABS information. Without that trust, survey respondents may be less forthcoming or truthful in answering our questionnaires. For more information, see 'Avoiding inadvertent disclosure' and 'Microdata' on our web page [How the ABS keeps your information confidential](#).

The release of microdata must satisfy the ABS legislative obligation to release information in a manner that is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation. Therefore, in accordance with the Census and Statistics Act, a confidentiality process is applied to the data in TableBuilder to avoid releasing information that may lead to the identification of individuals, families, households, dwellings or businesses.

Prior to being granted access to TableBuilder users must agree to the following ABS Terms and Conditions of TableBuilder Access.

The Microdata Frequently Asked Questions page has additional information on the following:

- Registration and access
- Pricing and Subscriptions
- Responsibilities when using TableBuilder
- Problems and error messages

CONDITIONS OF SALE

All ABS products and services are provided subject to the ABS Conditions of Sale. Any queries relating to these Conditions of Sale should be emailed to intermediary.management@abs.gov.au.

PRICE

Microdata access is priced according to the ABS Pricing Policy and Commonwealth Cost Recovery Guidelines. For details refer to ABS Pricing Policy on the ABS website. For microdata prices refer to the Microdata prices web page.

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES

The ABS/Universities Australia Agreement provides participating universities with access to a range of ABS products and services. This includes access to microdata. For further information, university clients should refer to the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement web page.

CITATIONS

Information or data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics must be acknowledged responsibly whenever it is used. Citing, or referencing is important for several reasons, including acknowledging that one has used the ideas, words or data of others. Accurately citing sources used also allows others to find and use the original information. For information on how to cite ABS data refer to Help: How to cite to ABS Sources.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Microdata Entry Page contains links to microdata related information to assist users in understanding and accessing microdata. For further information users should email microdata.access@abs.gov.au or telephone (02) 6252 7714.

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About this Release

The following microdata products are available from the Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey, 2016:

- TableBuilder

Apply online for access to the TableBuilder at <https://www.abs.gov.au/registration>

This product provides data including migration category, country of birth, proficiency in spoken English, educational attainment on arrival and since arrival, employment prior to arrival and since arrival, and sources of household income. A detailed list of data items is available on the Downloads tab.

The microdata enables users to tabulate, manipulate and analyse data. Steps to confidentialise the dataset are taken to ensure the integrity of data and maintain confidentiality of the respondents. This includes removing any information that might uniquely identify an individual, reducing the level of detail for some items and collapsing some categories.

Explanatory Notes

Definitions and Quality

DEFINITIONS AND QUALITY

The publication Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia, Nov 2016 (cat. no. 6250.0) includes a list of the Abbreviations used in the microdata for the Characteristics of Recent Migrants TableBuilder. The publication also includes a Glossary containing definitions of selected terms.

Quality Declaration - Summary

QUALITY DECLARATION - SUMMARY

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

The Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey (CoRMS) is conducted triennially in November throughout Australia as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) household survey program. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including its legislative obligations, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

TableBuilder files are released in accordance with the conditions specified in the Statistics Determination section of the Census and Statistics Act 1905 (CSA). This ensures that confidentiality is maintained whilst enabling micro level data to be released. More information on the confidentiality practices associated with TableBuilder can be found at the Survey Confidentiality Page.

RELEVANCE

The Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey (CORMS) provides a range of information on recent migrants and temporary residents.

Where a recent migrant is defined as a person who;

- was born overseas,
- who first arrived to live in Australia (for one year or more) after 2006,
- was aged 15 years or over on arrival,
- was not an Australian citizen or New Zealand citizen on arrival,
- does not currently hold New Zealand citizenship, and
- has permanent Australian resident status.

A temporary resident is defined as a person who:

- was born overseas,
- who first arrived to live in Australia (for one year or more) after 2006,
- was aged 15 years or over on arrival,
- was not an Australian citizen or New Zealand citizen on arrival,
- does not currently hold New Zealand citizenship, and
- has a temporary visa.

The type of information collected included socio-demographic characteristics (such as age, sex and birthplace), employment characteristics (such as labour force status, occupation and industry), educational qualifications obtained (such as level and field, both before coming to Australia to live and since arriving in Australia) and migration information (such as visa category and residency status on arrival to live in Australia and as at November, 2016). In addition, the survey collects information regarding language spoken on arrival in Australia and proficiency in English both on arrival in Australia and as at November 2016.

As CORMS is collected as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), persons excluded from the LFS were also excluded from this survey (see Explanatory Notes of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for standard LFS exclusions). Additional exclusions from this survey were people living in Indigenous communities in Australia and people in non-private dwellings such as hotels, university residences, boarding schools, hospitals, retirements homes, homes for people with disabilities and prisons.

Information from CORMS will be used by a wide range of public and private sector agencies, in particular the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

TIMELINESS

The Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants Survey was first conducted in 1984 and triennially thereafter up to 1999. It was collected again in 2004, 2007, 2010, 2013 and the latest survey was in 2016. The name of the survey was changed in 2007 to Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey, and again in 2010, to Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey to better reflect the scope of the survey. Data from the survey are released approximately six months after the completion of enumeration.

This is the third iteration of the Characteristics of Recent Migrants TableBuilder, the first was published based on the 2010 data and was released in May 2012.

ACCURACY

The microdata generally contains finer levels of detail for data items than what is otherwise published in other formats, for example, in Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia (cat. no. 6250.0). For information on the level of detail provided, please refer to the data item list in the Downloads tab.

Steps to confidentialise the data made available in TableBuilder are taken in such a way as to maximise the usefulness of the content while maintaining the confidentiality of respondents selected in the survey. As a result it may not be possible to exactly reconcile all the statistics produced from TableBuilder with other published statistics. Further information about the steps taken to confidentialise the microdata is available through the Survey Confidentiality Page.

COHERENCE

The ABS seeks to maximise consistency and comparability over time by minimising changes to its surveys. However, sound survey practice requires ongoing development and maintenance to maintain the integrity of the data and the efficiency of collection.

After each Census, population estimates are normally revised back five years to the previous Census year. As announced in the June 2012 issue of Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0), intercensal error between the 2006 and 2011 Censuses was larger than normal due to improved methodologies used in the 2011 Census Post Enumeration Survey. The intercensal error analysis indicated that previous population estimates for the base Census years were over-counted. An indicative estimate of the size of the over-count is that there should have been 240,000 fewer people at June 2006, 130,000 fewer in 2001 and 70,000 fewer in 1996. As a result, Estimated Resident Population (ERP) estimates have been revised for the last 20 years rather than the usual five.

Consequently, estimates of particular populations derived since CORMS 2013 may be lower than those published for previous years as the CORMS estimates have not been revised. In addition, the weighting methodology used in 2016 was modified to include ERP Migration statistics as part of the benchmark process. Therefore, caution should be used when comparing CORMS 2016 estimates with previous years.

For changes between iterations of CORMS, please refer to the Explanatory Notes. For a full list of changes made to the LFS, see Chapter 20 of Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2013 (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001) and Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics, Aug 2015 (cat. no. 6292.0).

Data were compared to non-ABS sources of information that were available. Comparisons conducted by the ABS showed that the data from this survey are not directly comparable with other available sources due to differences in definitions, scope and collection methods.

INTERPRETABILITY

Detailed information on the terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with the CoRMS can be found in the relevant web pages included with this release.

ACCESSIBILITY

Microdata products are available to approved users. Access can be applied for through the

Registration page. Users should also familiarise themselves with information available via the Microdata Entry Page.

A full list of all available microdata can be viewed via the List of expected and available Microdata.

Any queries regarding access to microdata can be forwarded to microdata.access@abs.gov.au or phone (02) 6252 7714.

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